

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Geoff Tyree/509-372-1145  
E-mail: Geoffrey\_T\_Tyree@rl.gov

September 5, 2002

**CH2M HILL Hanford Group brings new focus to closing Hanford waste tanks**

RICHLAND, Wash.— Hanford contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group is changing the way it does business for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection by increasing its level of focus on accelerating the cleanup and closure of Hanford's radioactive waste tanks.

CH2M HILL is establishing a new organization, called Tank Farm Closure Acceleration, that will be headed by former acting deputy general manager and senior vice president of Operations Dale Allen.

"The new organization will enable us to clean up and close tanks earlier, reducing the risk to the nearby Columbia River, downriver communities, and our employees," said CH2M HILL Hanford Group President and General Manager Ed Aromi. "This makes it easier for us to continue to focus experienced people and resources on the effort to get radioactive and hazardous waste out of the tanks for treatment so we can close them."

The new organization will concentrate on accelerating tank waste retrieval, using supplemental (to the Hanford vitrification facility) technologies for waste treatment and immobilization, and tank closure. The organization will also focus on integration efforts necessary to support accelerated waste processing by Hanford's waste treatment (vitrification) plant.

"A key effort for the new organization is completing the planning for closure of the first Hanford waste tank," said Allen. "Through the Accelerated Tank Closure Demonstration Project, CH2M HILL is preparing, in conjunction with the Department of Energy and the Washington State Department of Ecology, to establish a scientific basis for closing the Hanford tanks. This is an exciting opportunity for us to achieve near-term footprint reduction in the tank farms."

Allen has been serving as acting deputy general manager and senior vice president of operations. He has nearly four decades of diverse managerial and technical experience, including serving as the contractor site manager of DOE's Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and working in the commercial nuclear fuel enrichment industry as general manager of the Portsmouth (Ohio) Gaseous Diffusion Plant. His experience also includes working in the State of Illinois Highway Engineering Department and serving as an engineering officer in the United States Navy.

(more)

*Closing tanks, add 1*  
*Sept. 5, 2002*

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. is the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection prime contractor with responsibility for retrieving for treatment and disposing of approximately 53 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste stored in 177 underground tanks. CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. has approximately 1,400 employees.

It is part of the CH2M HILL family of employee-owned companies that provides engineering, construction, operations, and related technical services to public and private clients in numerous industries. The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of water, energy, environment, transportation, telecommunications, construction, and industrial facilities. CH2M HILL has more than 10,000 employees in 165 offices worldwide.

###